



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNOUNCE ANNUAL SERIES OF PUBLIC WATERFOWL MEETINGS

For the fourth consecutive year top officials of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold a series of public meetings in key cities throughout the country for the purpose of discussing the current status of migratory waterfowl with State officials, conservation agencies, representatives of sportsmen's groups, and the press. Albert M. Day, Service Director, advised Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman today.

The first meeting will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, on March 19 and the series will end on May 26 in Sacramento, California. Dr. Clarence Cottam, Assistant Director, will conduct most of the meetings, assisted by regional officials of the Service.

At these meetings, according to Mr. Day, Service officials will tell how the winter waterfowl inventory is made and the extent of the spring and summer breeding ground surveys, and then explain how the results of the inventory and breeding ground surveys affect the hunting regulations. Extensive use will be made of new slides to illustrate the talks.

Director Day was emphatic in stating that no information will be available in time for the meetings on the details of the hunting regulations for the 1950 season. "We cannot draw up our recommendations on the length of the shooting season and bag limits until we have thoroughly analyzed the preliminary data on breeding ground populations and production and fitted them in with the inventory data. It will be the latter part of June at the earliest before the data from the breeding grounds will arrive."

Conservation clubs, sportsmen, outdoor writers, and all persons who are interested in maintaining waterfowl as an important national resource are cordially invited to attend these meetings, said Mr. Day.

The schedule of meetings is as follows:

March 19	Omaha, Nebraska
March 24	Memphis, Tennessee
March 27	Atlanta, Georgia
April 12	St. Louis, Missouri
April 14	Minneapolis, Minnesota
April 28	Annapolis, Maryland
May 16	Wichita, Kansas
May 22	Portland, Oregon
May 26	Sacramento, California

Other details concerning location and time of meetings will be announced as soon as arrangements are completed.

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